

December 27, 1957

Dear Dr. Makela:

After consultation with my colleague, Professor M. R. Irwin, I can make the following proposal to you regarding your fellowship visit.

Professor Irwin's group, as you doubtless know, has pioneered in the immunogenetics of RBC factors in cattle and other animals. They have unexampled facilities for genetic studies, probably superior than those applicable even to large human populations.

We have both been interested for some time in the relationships of bacterial and RBC antigens, under the following headings:

- 1) The agglutination of RBC by various bacterial serotypes (as reviewed by yourself and by Neter) the specificities of which are still obscure, as regards the genotype of both reactants.
- 2) The cross-reactions between specific bacterial and RBC antigens (with immune sera); owing to auto-tolerance, this may have some medical significance.
- 3) The 'natural antibodies' that have been observed in individual cattle against diverse E. coli serotypes. Of particular interest here would be the extent of correlation between monozygotic twins, on which some preliminary studies have been made.

Professor Irwin and I would be happy to share the responsibility for your work along these lines. As, at present, we are located in the same building, and we have the most cordial relationships between ourselves, and among our associates, you would have a double benefit from this. However, to avoid immediate complications, I have formally signed the endorsement as Chairman of the Department of Medical Genetics; Professor Irwin heads the Department of Genetics (in the College of Agriculture).

Anticipating a favorable reaction on your part, I have forwarded the 'Facilities and Commitment Statement' to Professor Virtanen. We can, if necessary, make further adjustments on your program after your arrival. Any of the problems is likely to involve genetic analysis of both the mammalian and bacterial component.

Please let us know the earliest date at which you can conveniently begin your fellowship, as we will be relatively less crowded during the next few months than later on.

Yours sincerely,


Professor of Medical Genetics